



**MassHealth**  
**Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation**  
**Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 95**  
**December 2021**

**TO:** Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

**RE: Relaxation of Prior Authorization Procedures in Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals**

## **Background**

Under MassHealth chronic disease and rehabilitation inpatient hospital (CDRIH) provider regulations at 130 CMR 435.408, MassHealth pays for chronic disease and rehabilitation inpatient hospital services only when the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) or its agent determines, pursuant to a screening, that services are medically necessary and authorizes services prior to admission or conversion.

## **Temporary Suspension of Preadmission Screening for Services Rendered in a CDRIH**

As described in greater detail below, due to ongoing disruptions to the healthcare delivery system caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and notwithstanding 130 CMR 435.408: *Screening Program for Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Hospitals*, MassHealth will not require preadmission screening of individuals seeking admission to a CDRIH **between December 15, 2021, and March 15, 2022** (Temporary Suspension Period). Instead, a CDRIH may admit a member after submitting a notification of admission packet to MassHealth with the documentation described below.

A CDRIH seeking to admit a member during the Temporary Suspension Period may admit the member after submitting a notification of admission packet to the MassHealth Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA) containing the following documentation:

- Admission notes for the member;
- Clinical notes for the member covering their last three days in an acute inpatient hospital (documenting clinical and functional status); and
- CDRIH attestation of the member's needs.

Upon receipt of a notification of admission packet with the above required documentation, OCA will assign a "PAS number" to the member's admission for payment purposes.

**MassHealth  
Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation  
Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 95  
December 2021  
Page 2 of 2**

**CDRIH Admissions Prior to December 15, 2021, and After March 15, 2022**

Providers must continue to submit requests for preadmission screening for admissions to a CDRIH in accordance with all applicable MassHealth regulations and guidance.

**Continued Applicability of Concurrent and Retrospective Review**

Please note that notwithstanding the flexibilities described in this bulletin, all CDRIH services will continue to be subject to concurrent and retrospective review, in accordance with all applicable MassHealth regulations and guidance.

**MassHealth Website**

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

[Sign up](#) to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters.

**Questions**

If you have questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Provider Service Center.

**Phone:** Toll free (844) 368-5184

**Email:** [support@masshealthltss.com](mailto:support@masshealthltss.com)

**Portal:** [www.MassHealthLTSS.com](http://www.MassHealthLTSS.com)

**Mail:** MassHealth LTSS  
PO Box 159108  
Boston, MA 02215

**Fax:** (888) 832-3006